

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SAM-01 SP-02 INR-07 ARA-06 NSC-05

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R 022056Z SEP 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1674

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3955

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, RQ, CU

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN THE UN: LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

REF: USUN 3846

1. AUSTRALIAN MISOFF DUNCAN CAMPBELL INFORMED AMB WHITE THAT HE BELIEVES CUBA MAY RAISE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE IN FOURTH COMMITTEE THIS FALL, DESPITE DEFEAT IN COMMITTEE OF 24.

2. CAMPBELL ALSO THINKS THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO BEGIN DEVELOPING A STRATEGY NOW TO DEAL WITH PUERTO RICAN ISSUE NEXT YEAR IN COMMITTEE OF 24. IT MAY WELL ARISE AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY. HE SUGGESTED TO US AND TO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ANWAR SANI OF INDONESIA, WHO WILL PROBABLY BE NEXT CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF 24, THAT MOST EFFECTIVE COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION STATING THAT COMMITTEE OF 24 SHOULD ONLY CONSIDER NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES. CAMPBELL SAID THAT HE BELIEVES WITH PROPER PREPARATION, A MAJORITY OF COMMITTEE OF 24 WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF SUCH A RESOLUTION AND THAT IT IS ONLY STRATEGY PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO US WHICH WOULD DEFUSE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE IN COMMITTEE OF 24. IT RUNS THE RISK, HOWEVER, THAT CUBA MIGHT GO TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SEEK TO HAVE PUERTO RICO AGAIN PLACED ON LIST.

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2. CAMPBELL EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS HIS PERSONAL OPINION

AND THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON MATTER FROM HIS GOVERNMENT.

3. REGARDING THE NEXT STEPS, WE WILL BE ALERT TO ANY INDICATIONS THAT THE CUBANS INDEED INTEND TO BRING UP THE ISSUE OF PUERTO RICO IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE. IN THE MEANTIME WE SHOULD PROCEED ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN REFTEL. ON THE COMMITTEE OF 24, WE SHOULD HAVE OUR STRATEGY WORKED OUT BY JANUARY.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, PERSONAL OPINION, COMMITTEES, RESOLUTIONS, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN03955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750303-0468
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750990/aaaadchu.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USUN NEW YORK 3846
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUERTO RICO IN THE UN: LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE
TAGS: PFOR, US, RQ, CU, AS, UN, COMMITTEE OF 24, (CAMPBELL, DUNCAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006